ancing are constantly reviewed and necessary action taken.

PRIVATISATION OF TELCOM. DEPTT.

2494. SHRI S. VIDULTHALAI VIRUMBI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the privatisation programme in the Telecom. Department; and

(b) if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

POST OFFICES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS IN GUJARAT

2495. SHRI AHMED MOHAMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Gram Panchayats in the State of Gujarat are without facility of Post Office;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have decided to set up a post office in every Gram Panchayat during 1993-94; and

(c) if so, by when, and the steps taken to achieve the target fixed, if any, in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There are 5183 Gram Panchayats without post offices in Gujarat.

5183 Gram Panchayat is without Post Post Offices during 1993-94 in Gram Panchayats of Gujarat. Priority is being given to those Gram Panchayats where post office facility is not available. Post offices are progressively opened taking into consideration the various prescribed norms as well as availability of resources, and allocation of target by the Planning Commission.

NEW TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR TRANSMISSION OF DATA

2496. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be plyeased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to install a high speed packet switch, VAST (Very Small Aperture Terminal), telecommunications system for the transmission of data via the KU bank transponder through INTELSAT leased from Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the names of places where VAST is likely to be started; and

(d) by when these are likely to be started and at what cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

POSTAL DIVISION IN EACH REVENUE DISTRICT IN ORISSA

2497. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Postal Divisions in Orissa, the area covered|serviced by them and when they were formed;

(b) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken to set up Posal Divisions in each Revenue District of Orissa in the near future and how the newly created revenue districts are being ser-